

E1 cont'd
 encodes a leucine repeat rich receptor kinase, which preferably is modified to the extent that the ligand-binding domain is deleted or functionally inactivated.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 77-81.

Please amend claims 59, 60, 63, and 74-76 as follows (clean copy of amended claims):

E2
 59. (Amended) An expression vector according to claim 57, wherein the promoter is one of the following: a promoter which regulates expression of SERK genes *in planta*, the carrot chitinase DcEP3-1 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* AtChitIV gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* LTP-1 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* bel-1 gene promoter, the petunia fbp-7 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* ANT gene promoter, the promoter of the O126 gene from *Phalaenopsis*, the *Arabidopsis* DMC1 promoter, or the pTA7001 inducible promoter.

60. (Amended) An expression vector according to claim 58, wherein the promoter is one of the following: a promoter which regulates expression of SERK genes *in planta*, the carrot chitinase DcEP3-1 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* AtChitIV gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* LTP-1 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* bel-1 gene promoter, the petunia fbp-7 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* ANT gene promoter, the promoter of the O126 gene from *Phalaenopsis*, the *Arabidopsis* DMC1 promoter, or the pTA7001 inducible promoter.

E3
 63. (Amended) The method according to claim 61, wherein the kinase comprises a proline box, a transmembrane domain, a kinase domain and a protein binding domain.

E4
 74. (Amended) Plants transformed with the vector of claim 55, or the seeds or progeny of such plants, wherein said seeds or progeny contain said vector of claim 55.

75. (Amended) Plants transformed with the vector of claim 56, or the seeds or progeny of such plants, wherein said seeds or progeny contain said vector of claim 56.

76. (Amended) Plants which are derived from the seeds as produced by the method of claim 61, wherein said plants contain said vector according to claim 55.